

WHAT IS CLAIMED, IS

1. A method for selecting rating limits in a program content filtering system, wherein said rating limits
5 define whether programs are to be blocked or are deemed to be acceptable, comprising:
 - reproducing information about a rating example;
 - supplying at least one recommended rating assigned to said rating example;
 - 10 detecting an user indication about the acceptability of said rating example;
 - assigning said user indication to said recommended rating; and
 - deriving a rating limit in response to assigning said
15 user indication to said recommended rating.
2. The method of claim 1 wherein the steps of reproducing, supplying, detecting and assigning are repeated for a plurality of rating examples and a
20 respective plurality of recommended ratings to provide a plurality of user indications for said plurality of recommended ratings and a plurality of assignments of said plurality of user indications to respective ones of said plurality of recommended ratings, and wherein the step of
25 deriving a rating limit occurs in response to said plurality of assignments.
3. The method in accordance with claim 1, further comprising the steps of:
30 storing said rating limits;
receiving programs comprising multimedia content and

assigned recommended ratings;

comparing said stored rating limits with said
received assigned recommended ratings; and

denying access to programs exceeding at least one of
5 the rating limits.

4. The method in accordance with claim 1, wherein said
programs are television programs and wherein said program
content filtering system is a parental control system.

10

5. The method in accordance with claim 4, wherein said
television programs are received as an analogue television
signal and said assigned recommended ratings are received
in the vertical blanking interval of said analogue
15 television signal.

6. The method in accordance with claim 1, wherein the
recommended ratings define the age of the viewer the
program is designed for, the degree of a certain program
20 content, or a combination thereof.

7. The method in accordance with claim 1, wherein the
reproduced information about the rating examples is
displayed to the user and comprises one or more of the
25 following:

Title, description, topics, theme, picture, summary, short
trailer, recommended rating, explanation of recommended
rating.

30 8. The method in accordance with claim 1, wherein said
user indications comprise various degrees of
acceptability.

9. The method in accordance with claim 1, wherein said information about rating examples and said recommended ratings assigned to said rating examples are received
5 within electronic program guide information.

10. The method in accordance with claim 1, wherein said information about rating examples and said recommended ratings assigned to said rating examples are stored in a
10 receiver device.

11. The method in accordance with claim 1, wherein for a networked device said information about rating examples and said recommended ratings assigned to said rating
15 examples are stored in a remote server.

12. The method in accordance with claim 1, wherein said information about rating examples and said recommended ratings assigned to said rating examples are selected by
20 the user from the normal EPG program schedule.

13. The method in accordance with claim 1, wherein currently broadcasted programs are used as information about rating examples and wherein recommended ratings
25 broadcast embedded into said currently broadcast programs are used as said recommended ratings assigned to said rating examples.

14. The method in accordance with claim 1, wherein an
30 overview of derived rating limits is displayed.

15. The method in accordance with claim 14, wherein the

derived rating limits can be manually amended.

16. Apparatus comprising:

means for receiving programming including rating
5 information; and

control means responsive to the rating information and
to a rating limit for providing content filtering of the
programming; wherein the control means comprises:

means for providing information about a rating
10 example; and

means for deriving the rating limit in response to an
indication from a user about the acceptability of the
rating example.

15 17. The apparatus of claim 16 wherein the information
providing means provides information about a plurality of
rating examples and the rating limit deriving means
derives the rating limit in response to a plurality of
indications from a user about the acceptability of
20 respective ones of the plurality of rating examples.

18. Television apparatus with a parental control
system, comprising:

a processor for executing a rating limits
25 application, wherein said rating limits application
provides rating examples and processes user indication
about the acceptability of said rating examples in order
derive rating limits from said user indications;

an OSD generator for generating screen displays
30 reproducing information about said rating examples;
a display for displaying said screen displays;
an input interface for detecting user indications

Express Mail Label: EL 834959535 US

PU010113

about the acceptability of said rating examples; and
a memory for storing said derived rating limits.